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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - EU ISSUES- TURKEY PRESIDENT
BUSH - IRAQ
PARIS - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

1. EU ISSUES- TURKEY
2. PRESIDENT BUSH - IRAQ

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

A VARIETY OF DOMESTIC STORIES DOMINATE TODAY'S FRONT PAGES, BUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, FINANCIAL AS WELL AS HUMAN ARE PROMINENTLY REPORTED. THE FINANCIAL COST OF THE HURRICANE IS ESTIMATED BY LA TRIBUNE TO BE BETWEEN 15 AND 20 BILLION DOLLARS. FOR CATHOLIC LA CROIX, WHICH HEADLINES "THE INEQUALITIES OF THE OIL CRISIS," HIGH OIL PRICES ARE AFFECTING SOUTH EAST ASIAN DEVELOPING ECONOMIES VERY HARSHLY. BUT IN HER EDITORIAL DOMINIQUE QUINIO EMPHASIZES THE "EDUCATIONAL VALUE" OF SUCH A CRISIS, WHICH SERVES "AS A WAKE UP CALL" FOR CONSUMERS AND CAN HELP CHANGE "CONSUMER HABITS."

MOST EDITORIALS ARE DEVOTED TO PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL PUSH IN FAVOR OF INNOVATION AND CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO BOOST EMPLOYMENT. IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO PHILIPPE RECLUS WARNS ABOUT TOO MUCH "INTERVENTION FROM THE STATE." HE CALLS INSTEAD FOR MORE "RISK TAKING AND LONG TERM INVESTMENT" BY COMPANIES WHOSE ROLE IT IS TO "CONSERVE THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE STATE." CONVERSELY RECLUS CALLS ON THE STATE TO HELP "BY PROVIDING A FAVORABLE ECONOMIC AND TAX ENVIRONMENT FOR PRIVATE INITIATIVE."

IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S REMARKS ON TURKEY'S NEED TO CLARIFY ITS POSITION ON CYPRUS, COLUMNIST ALEXANDRE ADLER PENS AN OPINION PIECE URGING EUROPE TO HONOR ITS PROMISE TO TURKEY. (SEE PART C)

LE FIGARO DEVOTES A HALF-PAGE REPORT TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND THE CHALLENGES AWAITING HIM. (SEE PART C)

POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR DEVOTES ITS LEAD TO THE THREAT OF AVIAN FLU, "WHICH IS ON OUR DOORSTEP." A FULL-PAGE ARTICLE INSIDE IS ENTITLED: "FINALLY, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT MOBILIZED AGAINST AVIAN FLU." BUT IN AN INTERVIEW, THE HEAD OF THE TROPICAL DISEASE CENTER IN MARSEILLES, PHILIPPE BROUQUI SAYS: "TALKS ABOUT AVAILABLE VACCINES OR ANTI-VIRAL MEDICATION IS RIDICULOUS. WE CANNOT EXPERIMENT WITH A VACCINE FOR A DISEASE WE DO NOT YET GRASP FULLY."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

EU ISSUES- TURKEY

"TURNING TO ANKARA"

ALEXANDRE ADLER IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (08/31): "TURKEY HAS OF LATE BECOME A BEACON OF DEMOCRACY AND MODERNISM IN THE MUSLIM WORLD. UNDER THESE NEW AND FAVORABLE CONDITIONS, EUROPE CANNOT TURN AWAY FROM TURKEY. IF A SERIOUS CRISIS DEVELOPED AND EUROPE WAS TO RENEGE ON ITS PROMISE TO TURKEY, WE WOULD BE FACING A TWO-SIDED PHENOMENON. FIRST, AMONG ISLAMIC RANKS, WE WOULD SEE A REJECTION OF EUROPE, WHICH WOULD BE A STEP BACKWARDS; SECOND, THERE WOULD BE A RAPPROCHEMENT OF MILITARY AND POLITICAL LEADERS WITH THE U.S., WHICH COULD WELL INCLUDE TURKEY IN NAFTA, AS IT HAS DONE WITH AUSTRALIA. THIS WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR FRANCE AND EUROPE. TURKEY WOULD CLOSE ITSELF TO OUR INDUSTRIES. IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO CALM THE SITUATION, APPEASE SPIRITS AND CONSOLIDATE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE'S NUMBER ONE ALLY IN A REGION THAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SUBJECTED TO A NEW WAVE OF INSTABILITY, SUCH AS IRAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS."

PRESIDENT BUSH - IRAQ

"BUSH FACING A TUMULTUOUS RENTR "

PHILIPPE GELIE IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (08/31):

"HURRICANE KATRINA IS NOT THE KIND OF DISTRACTION PRESIDENT BUSH NEEDED. WITH ITS LEVEL OF DESTRUCTION, THE HURRICANE WILL COMPLICATE EVEN MORE THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR A POLITICAL RENTR THAT LOOKS PARTICULARLY DELICATE. THE

MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE HURRICANE WILL DETRACT FROM IRAQ, BUT ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME. AFTER HIS FIVE-WEEK VACATION, PRESIDENT BUSH IS FACING A POPULARITY RATE DOWN TO 40 PERCENT, THE LOWEST IN HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAREER. ON IRAQ, 61 PERCENT OF AMERICANS DISAPPROVE HIS POLICY, WITH COMPARISONS TO VIETNAM ON THE RISE. STILL, A GENERAL PUBLIC UPRISING OVER IRAQ IS UNLIKELY BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF AMERICAN VICTIMS ARE VOLUNTEERS RATHER THAN DRAFTEES. THE DOMESTIC SITUATION WILL NOT HELP THE PRESIDENT WHOSE SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM APPEARS TO BE IN LIMBO. WHILE TRADITIONALLY A PRESIDENT WILL SEEK REFUGE IN HIS FOREIGN POLICY DURING A SECOND TERM, PRESIDENT BUSH'S IRAQ POLICY IS OVERWHELMING THAT PARTICULAR HORIZON."

STAPLETON